

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-10 SAJ-01 SAM-01 SAB-01

ACDA-05 SCCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3173

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONSUL ZAGREB

USUN NEW YORK 700

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 3102

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR YO US EG

SUBJ: GOY BRIEFING ON SADAT VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA

REF: A) BELGRADE 3069 B) BELGRADE 2745 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: IN FSFA BRIEFING ON SADAT VISIT YUGOSLAVS REPORTED THEIR IMPRESSIONS THAT SADAT IS OPEN TO ALL INITIATIVES FOR PROGRESS ON ME SETTLEMENT: FURTHER DISENGAGEMENT OF FORCES, CONVENING OF GENEVA CONFERENCE AND POSITIVE UNILATERAL ACTIONS, SUCH AS ISRAEL'S THINNING OF FORCES. SADAT'S VIEWS, AS CONVEYED BY YUGOSLAVS, GENERALLY BEAR THEIR IMPRESSIONS OUT. SADAT ALSO REPORTEDLY EMPHASIZED DECISIVE US ROLE IN REACHING ME SOLUTION AND GREAT CONFIDENCE IN PRESIDENT FORD, SPOKE OF NONAALIGNED PARTICIPATION AT GENEVA ONLY IF CONFERENCE DEADLOCKED, AND EXPRESSED STRONG DOUBTS ABOUT ISRAELI INTENTIONS. YUGOSLAVS ALSO TOLD AMBASSADOR OF THEIR EFFORTS TO MODERATE POSITION OF PLO AND MADE STRONG PITCH THAT US HAS KEY PLACE IN INSURING SADAT DOES NOT FAIL IN CURRENT INITIATIVE. BRIEFING MAY BE EFFORT TO
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ESTABLISH RECOPROCAL CONSULTATIONS WITH US AND PORTRAY YUGOSLAVS AS

RESPONSIBLE WORLD STATESMEN. END SUMMARY

2. IN FOREIGN SECRETARIAT'S BRIEFING FOR AMBASSADOR ON RECENT HIGH-LEVEL VISITS TO YUGOSLAVIA JUNE 16 (REF A), ASSISTANT SECRETARY KOMATINA (ASIA, AFRICA AND LATIN AMERICA) NOTED, WITH REFERENCE TO EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT ANWAR SADAT'S VISIT HERE (REF B), THAT SINCE SADAT AND PRESIDENT FORD MET AND EXCHANGED VIEWS IN SALZBURG RIGHT AFTER HE LEFT YUGOSLAVIA, IT WOULD NOT BE NECESSARY TO DESCRIBE YUGOSLAV IMPRESSIONS FROM THE SADAT VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA IN DETAIL. HE SAID THAT YUGOSLAVS WERE IMPRESSED WITH SADAT'S OPENNESS TO ALL INITIATIVES WHICH OFFER THE POSSIBILITY OF A FURTHER DISENGAGEMENT OF FORCES, A CONVENING OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE, AND UNILATERAL STEPS SUCH AS THE RECENT ISRAELI PULL-BACK. OCCASIONALLY REFERRING TO NOTES, KOMATINA REPORTED FOLLOWING PERCEPTIONS OF SADAT'S VIEWS:

A. WITH RESPECT TO GENEVA CONFERENCE, THOROUGH PREPARATION MUST BE MADE ON FOUR PLANES; COORDINATION OF INTER-ARAB VIEWS, INCLUDING THOSE OF THE PLO; US VIEWS MUST BE HEARD; MORE CONTACTS WITH SOVIET UNION; POSSIBLE PARTICIPATION OF NONALIGNED COUNTRIES. KOMATINA SAID THAT SADAT RECOGNIZES THAT THE GENEVA CONFERENCE IS FRAUGHT WITH THE DANGER OF FAILURE AND HE IS NOT RUSHING TO IT.

B. FURTHER DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENTS ARE POSSIBLE AND DESIRABLE BEFORE THE CONVENING OF A GENEVA CONFERENCE.

C. SADAT VIEWS THE POSSIBLE PARTICIPATION OF NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES IN THE CONFERENCE IN A REALISTIC WAY BUT DOES NOT CONDITION THE CONVENING OF THE CONFERENCE ON THEIR PARTICIPATION. HE CONSIDERS THAT THE NON-ALIGNED ROLE MIGHT BECOME MORE IMPORTANT IF THE CONFERENCE WERE TO DEADLOCK AND, KOMATINA ADDED, YUGOSLAVIA AGREES WITH HIM.

D. SADAT HAS DOUBTS ABOUT WHETHER ISRAEL HAS ANY REAL INTENTION OF MAKING PEACE AND SEEKING DETENTE IN THE ME, HAVING NOTED THAT HER POLICIES HAVE TOO LONG BEEN BASED ON CONFRONTATION.

E. SADAT IS REALISTIC AND OPEN TO A POLITICAL SOLUTION WHICH WOULD PAVE THE WAY TO FULL ACCEPTANCE OF ISRAEL AS A STATE. THE DANGER NOW IS IF HE DOESN'T SUCCEED DUE TO ISRAELI STUBBORNNESS.
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F. THE US HOLDS MOST IF NOT ALL OF THE CARDS IN INFLUENCING ATTAINMENT OF ME SETTLEMENT.

G. SADAT SAID, AND KOMATINA SAID TITO AGREED, THAT PRESIDENT FORD IS AN OPEN, CANDID MAN WHO WEIGHS HIS WORDS BEFORE SPEAKING; IF HE UNDERTAKES COMMITMENTS (WITH RESPECT TO ME), IT MEANS HE BELIEVES HE CAN SUCCEED.

3. KOMATINA STATED THAT YUGOSLAVIA HOPES THE NONALIGNED WILL BE ABLE TO HELP FIND A SOLUTION TO THE ME CRISIS AND HAS ADOPTED A PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A SPECIAL BODY OF NONALIGNED COUNTRIES TO CONTRIBUTE TOWARD A SOLUTION. THE PROPOSAL AND A POSSIBLE MANDATE FOR THE BODY WILL BE CONSIDERED IN THE NONALIGNED COORDINATING BUREAU WHICH WILL MEET SHORTLY IN NEW YORK.

4. A QUESTION FROM THE AMBASSADOR ELICITED KOMATINA'S STATEMENT THAT THE PLO'S POSITIONS ON A ME SETTLEMENT ARE WELL KNOWN AND THEY WERE RECENTLY RESTATED DURING A VISIT TO BELGRADE BY A PLOT DEL. THEIR VIEW IS THAT ISRAEL JEOPARDIZES ALL PEACE MOVEMENTS. AS FOR THE GOY, KOMATINA SAID IT CONSIDERS THAT THE PALESTINIANS HAVE A RIGHT TO A HOMELAND JUST AS THE ISRAELIS BUT ISRAEL SHOULD WITHDRAW TO HER 1967 BORDERS. A FINAL PEACE SETTLEMENT SHOULD BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SC RESOLUTION 242. GOY ALSO MAKES THE SAME VIEWS KNOWN TO THE PLO. HE SAID THAT YUGOSLAVIA PREACHES TO THE PLO THAT IT MUST MAKE THE FIRST STEP ACKNOWLEDGING ISRAELI EXISTENCE SINCE ISRAEL HAS AGREED TO ATTEND THE GENEVA CONFERENCE, BUT THE PLO COUNTERS THAT ISRAEL IS ALREADY A STATE WHILE THE PALESTINIANS ARE EXILES; THEREFORE ISRAEL MUST TAKE THE LEAD IN RECOGNIZING THE PLO. KOMATINA NOTED THAT YUGOSLAVIA EXERTS WHATEVER INFLUENCE IS POSSIBLE TO CONVINCE THE PLO THAT THERE CAN BE NO SOLUTION WITHOUT THE RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL'S EXISTENCE AND DEVELOPMENT OF NORMAL RELATIONS.

5. KOMATINA EMPHASIZED THAT THE US HAS A KEY POSITION IN ENSURING THAT SADAT DOES NOT FAIL IN HIS EFFORT. HE SAID THAT THE US IS THE ONLY POWER WHICH CAN "IMPOSE" A SOLUTION ON ISRAEL, ADDING THAT HE MEANT THAT THE US SHOULD INFLUENCE ISRAEL ON MANY ASPECTS OF THE ME PROBLEM. KOMATINA ACKNOWLEDGED THE AMBASSADOR'S POINT THAT THE US CANNOT FORCE ISRAEL BUT

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HE ADDED THAT BOTH SADAT AND YUGOSLAVIA THINK THAT THE US CAN HAVE A DECISIVE INFLUENCE ON ISRAEL.

6. COMMENT: BY TAKING INITIATIVE TO CONSULT WITH US THROUGH BRIEFING ON HIGH LEVEL BISITS TO YUGOSLAVIA, YUGOSLAVS MAY HOPE US WILL RECIPROCATATE AND GOY WILL BE CUT IN ON ACTION OF LARGER INTERNATIONAL ISSUES. THEIR QUALIFICATIONS TO ASSUME IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL ROLE WERE POSSIBLY INTENDED TO BE ENHANCED BY PICTURE KOMATINA PORTRAYED OF YUGOSLAVS AS RESPONSIBLE STATESMEN WHO ATTEMPTED TO MODERATE PLO POSITIONS AND ARE NOW BRIEFING GREAT POWER ON ROLE IT CAN PLAY.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT, VISITS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BELGRA03102
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750213-1055
From: BELGRADE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750632/aaaabcvh.tel
Line Count: 166
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 BELGRADE 3069, 75 BELGRADE 2745
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 APR 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <22 SEP 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOY BRIEFING ON SADAT VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA
TAGS: PFOR, YO, US, EG, XF, (SADAT, ANWAR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006